Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A device for transporting sheets to a sheet processing machine, comprising:

a feed table defining suction regions of different pressure levels to be produced by a single vacuum source, said suction regions being disposed behind one another in a direction of sheet transport, and said feed table having suction openings and ventilation openings formed therein; and

at least one suction belt for endlessly revolving over said feed table, said suction belt to be acted upon by said pressure levels, and said suction belt having through openings formed therein;

said suction openings ~~and said ventilation~~ openings in said feed table corresponding with said through openings in said suction belt, said ventilation openings in said feed table being in direct contact with said through openings in said suction belt.

Claim 2 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 1, wherein said suction regions include a second or middle suction region, and said suction openings and said ventilation openings are disposed said second or middle suction region.

Claim 3 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 1, further comprising suction boxes disposed in parallel in edge regions of said suction belt for acting upon said suction openings in said feed table.

Claim 4 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 1, further comprising suction boxes disposed behind one another in a V shape for acting with vacuum upon said suction openings in said feed table.

Claim 5 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 3, wherein said ventilation openings in said feed table are respectively disposed between said suction boxes.

Claim 6 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 4, wherein said ventilation openings in said feed table are respectively disposed between said suction boxes.

Claim 7 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 3, wherein said suction regions include an end suction region associated with one of said suction boxes, and a rotary valve connects said one suction box to said single vacuum source.

Claim 8 (original): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 4, wherein said suction regions include an end suction region associated with one of said suction boxes, and a rotary valve connects said one suction box to said single vacuum source.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A device for transporting sheets to a sheet processing machine, the device comprising:

a feed table defining suction regions of different pressure levels, said suction regions being disposed behind one another in a direction of sheet transport, and said feed table having suction openings; and

at least one suction belt for endlessly revolving over said feed table, said suction belt to be acted upon by said pressure levels, and said suction belt having through openings formed therein;

said suction openings corresponding with said through openings and being disposed in a V-shape for acting with vacuum upon said through openings.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 1, wherein said feed table has a surface, said suction openings and said ventilation openings are formed in said surface.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The sheet-transporting device according to claim 1, wherein said ventilation openings connect corresponding ones of said through openings of said belt to atmospheric air.